

yards ahead with my younger son, first noticed two large, tawny butterflies flying round a small tree. One of these flew into some surrounding oaks, but the other fluttered down to a patch of bare ground, and sat basking with spread wings. Both my parents are reliable lepidopterists, so when I heard my father relaying the information that they could see a large Tortoiseshell, I covered those intervening 100 yards at a speed that would have been the envy of any Olympic sprinter!

When I arrived the butterfly had moved to the trunk of a small tree, and indeed proved to be a superb female *polychloros*. Her wingspread must have measured a good $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and the late afternoon sun caught all the russet-gold hairiness of abdomen and inner wing margin. The six of us reverently admired her while she displayed there, until she eventually flew down to the bare earth again for a minute, then round in a wide circle to join her fellow in the oaks.

After a wait of about 20 minutes I actually heard the next *polychloros* before I saw it as it flew past with an audible click of wings. This time it circled without settling, and then "struck" a large cherry tree at full speed.

My parents were able to visit the locality regularly over the next few weeks, and in fact the following day saw another, rather more tattered specimen sunning on a post at about 12.10 p.m. In spite of fairly close observation, both by my parents and myself, no further Large Tortoiseshells have been seen for certain to date; though on 20th July my father thought he saw one fly up from a path in the same area, and on 23rd July my mother also records a probable but unconfirmed sighting.

I hope these butterflies may prove to be the nucleus of a thriving colony in this very suitable area. I await next spring with considerable anticipation. — Dr. C. J. LUCKENS, 52 Thorold Road, Bitterne Park, Southampton, SO2 4JG.

SOME LATE DATES IN 1974. — In spite of a very lean autumn for lepidoptera in general there were quite a number of interesting late dates for species in the m.v. trap here as follows in chronological order, some being no doubt second broods: — 4th September, *Campaea margaritata* L.; 8th September, *Unca tripartita* Hufn.; 9th September, *Epione repandaria* Hufn.; 13th September, *Mamestra brassicae* L.; 14th September, *Cryphia perla* D. & Schiff., and *Euproctis similis* Fuessl.; 16th September, *Crocallis elinguaris* L.; 17th September, *Cleora rhomboidaria* D. & Schiff.; 19th September, *Sterrhia aversata* L.; 26th September, *Amphipyra tragopogonis* Clerck; 15th October, *Hypena proboscidalis* L.; 18th October, *Euschesis comes* Hübn.; 6th November, *Dysstroma truncata* Hufn.; 8th November, *Plusia gamma* L.; 21st November, *Thera variata* D. & Schiff. — C. G. M. DE WORMS, Three Oaks, Shore's Road, Woking.